

Community Transition Advisory Committee (CTAC)
Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2009

CTAC meeting was held on 8/13/09 in the Extension Office conference room in Whitehall. *Attendees* were Mark Thompson, Bob Brock, Liz Kidwell, Ed Handl, Ken Weber, Paula Johnston, Terry Ross, Roy McBride, Tom Harrington and Nancy Wheeler. *Guest:* Gary Sundseth

1. Tom called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Paula made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 7/09/09; Bob seconded the motion. Minutes were approved as published.

3. Golden Sunlight Mine (GSM) Operations

a. Current Operations Update

Mark reported all is going well and currently have 145 employees and 25 contractors. Had a small slide they are working on mitigating. The mine is in the process of budgeting for 2010 and is exploring ways to bring the mill up and running in 2011; the current schedule is for the first quarter of 2012. The electric shovel is giving the mine an extra digging unit in the pit.

b. Wind Development Update

Mark said the leasee continues to collect data. Tom said staff has received the small wind report back from Northwest SEED out of Seattle in final draft. The report is an analysis of Jefferson County and the Town of Whitehall CREB's applications, possibly including the school district. Tom said staff would like to meet with the big wind developer when they are at the mine to discuss ways to bring the two wind projects together.

4. Golden Sunlight Mine (GSM) Environmental Update

Mark said the mine is close to submitting an application to the State for a permit amendment and a few more acres of permitted disturbance boundary. The future dump just north of the tailings impoundment will be reconfigured. The purpose of that dump is not only for waste rock but also to help stabilize the ground movement up there. The geo technical people reworked the dump design and found they could enhance those properties to stabilize ground movement if the dump was moved; however, the new location is outside the disturbance boundary, so needs to be re-permitted. As it's over 10 acres, it automatically goes into an amendment, probably an Environment Assessment, which needs to go out for public notice and comment. Reclamation is progressing as scheduled. Mark reported the mine should be doing an approximate 15 foot lift on the tailings impoundment next summer.

5. Sunlight Business Park Overview

a. Phase II Grant Status & HUD Special Grant

Tom said all paperwork has been submitted to EDA and the process is moving forward. JLDC has an RFQ out for engineer services for the park and proposals will be reviewed by a board comprised of five people August 18th. There is some engineer re-write that needs to be done through DEQ for Phase 1 development only. The same engineer firm selected for the re-write will oversee construction management and work with the successful bidder for the park development once EDA grant money is received.

Tom said regarding the special Congressional appropriation through Senator Tester's office for \$142,500; even though an Environmental Assessment (EA) was done previously for EDA, this money comes from HUD, a different federal agency with their own process, so another EA is required that needs to be approved by the Denver Environmental Officer before the funds can be released from Washington D.C. JLDC staff is working with an engineer firm on this.

b. Subdivision Update

Tom said the subdivision is still pending. JLDC has preliminary plat with an extension through August for final plat; however, can't go for final plat until services are in at the park so another request has gone forward to the Commission to extend the preliminary plat to allow EDA money to work towards putting water, sewer and roads in at the park so can go to final plat.

c. Tax Increment Financing District (TIFD) Update

Tom reported the process is moving forward and have responses back from all adjacent land owners. Staff met with Golden Sunlight Mine (GSM) and worked through the wording of the TIFD. The map needs to be finalized and GSM will review the final product before presenting it to the County Commission. A public hearing will need to be held and the Commission will then decide on approval of the TIFD.

d. Interpretive Center

Tom said the Interpretive Center is one of the initial drawings included from the architect who did the design phase for the park. JLDC is looking at the Center being one of the first buildings/businesses in the park.

6. Frontier Days Report

Overall, Frontier Days was good but had a low turnout due to other events/activities in the immediate area. Tom said there were weather issues also. Liz said the dance was attended by a lot of youth/families and about 150-200 people, mostly youth, were there steady. Terry's biggest complaint he heard was regarding the change in weekends for the event.

Sam Graham and Rick Henderson from the mine were in charge of the Saturday BBQ and set up on Thursday. GSM had some Boy Scouts refurbish all the tables as they were damaged last year. Rick ran the operation Saturday and had a crew there helping. About 550-600 people were served. The Golden Sunlight Mine, Rocky Mountain Bank and Jefferson IGA provide most of the support for the picnic and it's a big fund raiser for the Chamber. Tim D. had a display for GSM and Terry had one for Luzenac; both were neat displays with quite a bit of activity. Terry said 185 attended Luzenac's Open House the following weekend.

7. Pavilion Construction – GSM Assistance

Terry said people are still discussing the best location for the pavilion and no decisions have been made. Discussion followed. Tom said due to lack of members and time, the Town's Parks, Trees and Cemetery Board gave the project back to the Community Development Board (CDB) and, after a decision is made as to location, will move forward with the pavilion. If anyone has ideas or comments, please contact the CDB.

8. Other Items of Discussion

a. Mark said GSM's company picnic is scheduled for August 22nd at the Cardwell Pavilion and CTAC members are invited.

b. Tom said the *Montana Outdoors* magazine had a slanted article toward mining and the environment in its last issue. The article was not favorable toward mining and some mining organizations took exception to the article. The Montana Mining Association was one of the organizations. Debbie Shea, Director of the Montana Mining Association, met with the director of FWP and wrote a "letter to the editor" and is gathering information from various mines to write an article about the positive aspects of mining.

9. Next Meeting Date/Time

Next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, September 10th, 2009**, 8:00 a.m. at the Extension Office Conference Room. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 a.m.